

ornithologist is so situated as to attend to the subject, but some could doubtless perform the work with little trouble, and the weight would add much to the stock of knowledge.

Weigh the fresh bird in the flesh when received, making due allowance for the shot in the body; weigh the eggs when they are measured, noting the fact of their freshness or embryonic condition, and weigh the nest when it is ready for the show-case.

The remarks on the subject of *weight* will apply equally to the students of some other branches of natural history; to the mammalogist, the herpetologist, the ichthyologist, and to the entomologist, in a part of their work at least.

Very respectfully,

Somerset, Mass.

ELISHA SLADE.

[The weight of birds would certainly form an item of interest, and the variation in this respect presented by a series of specimens of the same species, taken at the same season, and also at different periods, would add really desirable information; but doubtless the variation, owing to the condition of the specimen as regards fatness or leanness, would be so great that weight would be found to have little diagnostic value.—EDS.]

NOTES AND NEWS.

AMONG the exhibits of the National Museum at the New Orleans Exhibition will be a selected collection of mounted birds, with a series of North American game birds, another of birds beneficial to agriculture, and a third consisting of those known to be injurious, as the leading features. In addition, there will be exhibited groups of the most characteristic birds from each of the great zoögeographical divisions of the earth, as Birds of Paradise, Pittas, and Lories, from New Guinea, Apteryx from New Zealand, Toucans, Macaws, Tanagers and Cotingas from South America, Pheasants from India, Plantain-eaters from Africa, etc., etc. The collection is now being prepared under Mr. Ridgway's direction and will be arranged for exhibition by Dr. Stejneger.

THE bird-collection of the National Museum has increased from 93,091 at the end of 1883 to 100,126 up to Oct. 7, 1884, 7035 specimens having thus been added since January 1. It may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk' to know that the enumeration of the bird record was begun with 3696 specimens forming Professor Baird's private collection, his catalogue, written in his own hand, forming Volume I of the Museum Register of birds, which now comprises 18 volumes, containing a full record of the immense collection built upon Professor Baird's donation.

Professor Baird's cabinet, now merged with the general collection, consisted chiefly of specimens collected, prepared and labelled by himself and his brother Wm. M. Baird, and its value is further enhanced by many of Audubon's types, presented to Professor Baird by Mr. Audubon. All American ornithologists will rejoice that Professor Baird has lived to see so magnificent a collection grow from the comparatively small nucleus which he formed, and with which must be connected in his memory many pleasant associations; and they all hope that he may live to witness the steady development of what is now the best collection extant of North American and West Indian birds into one without a rival in any feature. As being, more than any other living person, entitled to the privilege, specimens numbered 100,000 and 100,001 are entered as donations from Professor Baird, to whom they were presented by Mr. Geo. N. Lawrence, the oldest active American ornithologist. One of them, a Common Crossbill, was shot by Mr. Lawrence in New York City in 1850, and the other, a Flicker, on Long Island, in 1862.

At the meeting of the Ridgway Ornithological Club of Chicago, held July 10, the following papers were read: 'Migration of Birds through Brown Co., Wisc., Spring of 1884,' by S. W. Willard, giving notes on 71 species; 'Oölogical Phenomena,' by B. T. Gault, noting variations in the coloration of eggs of Swainson's Buzzard and other species: 'A day's observations on the Birds of Start Co., Ind.,' by G. F. Morcom and H. K. Coale—notes on 77 species; 'Note on the Bronzed Grackle,' by H. L. Fulton. Dr. Velie exhibited a black Red-tailed Hawk, shot at Jacksonville, Ill., Dec., 1883.

MR. H. NEHRING of Pierce City, Mo., has begun the publication of a series of articles on the birds of Texas, in 'Der Zoologische Garten,' entitled 'Texas und seine Ornith.' The articles will be reissued later in book form, making a volume of about 350 pages. Mr. Nehring is already well known as a popular writer on American birds, in both the German and English languages.

In selecting English names for our North American birds two cases have come before the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature and Classifications, on which they desire an expression of opinion from the readers of 'The Auk.' These cases relate to the names Vireo and Greenlet, and Junco and Snowbird. Responses indicating the writer's preference in respect to these alternative names, may be sent to the editor of 'The Auk,' and the name in each case having the greatest number of supporters will be adopted for the species of birds to which these names are commonly applied. Replies, to be available, must be received not later than Dec. 15, 1884, and the result of the ballot will be announced in the next (January) issue of 'The Auk.'